

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2079 without my signature.

This bill intends to address various recommendations of the Secretary of State's Task Force on Voter Privacy. I believe that an open election process instills confidence in California's voters and that any effort to protect a voter's privacy must be weighed against the open elections process.

Current law provides that the processing of provisional voters is open to the public, both before and after an election. Prior to the processing of provisional ballots, an elections official must make available a list of provisional voters for public inspection, from which challenges may be presented. This bill would prohibit an elections official from disclosing the identity of any provisional voter or a list of such voters before an election is certified, which would make the elections process less accessible to the public during the critical canvass period.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger